GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:418
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
OUTSTANDING DUES
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of telephone subscribers who owe crores of rupees to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any legal proceedings have been initiated against them to retrieve the dues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.418 FOR 18TH DECEMBER, 2000 REGARDING OUTSTANDING DUES.

The BSNL has a network of 2.46 crore subscribers spread over 22 Telecom Circles.Against a billed figure of Rs. 15508 crores in a year, the outstanding dues amount to 15%. However, these figures of outstanding dues are inclusive of current bills, which are within the period allowed for payment at the time of computation. Further, these figures represent outstanding dues on a cumulative basis for over ten years. The cumulative outstanding dues as on 31st March for the preceding three years were as follows:-

(In Crores of Rupees)

Year	Amount Billed	Outstanding Dues	Outstanding Dues as % of amount billed
1997-98	11710	1636	14
1998-99	14025	1761	13
1999-2000	15508	2374	15

Circle-wise details of outstanding dues for the last three years are given in Annexure.

Depending upon the merits of each case, legal remedies usually in the form of Lok Adalats, reference to Arbitrators under section 7-B of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Courts of Law are availed to retrieve the dues.